

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of October 27, 2004 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 4 as being anticipated by Sakurai et al., U.S. 6,682,408 (Sakurai). However, the Examiner also indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if redrafted into independent form.

Accordingly, in order to obtain the allowance of the present application, the limitations of claim 5 have now been included in independent claim 1, and claim 5 has been cancelled. Claim 4 has been amended appropriately in view of the changes to claim 1. However, no acquiescence or agreement with the positions opposed by the Examiner in the Office Action should necessarily be inferred from this action.

Because withdrawn claim 3 is now dependent from allowable independent claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that examination of this claim should also proceed at this time. It is further submitted that the claim is clearly in condition for allowance as it depends from claim 1.

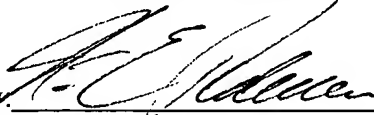
New dependent claim 8 also depends from claim 1, and simply recites that the number of the plurality of cleaning devices is larger than the number of the plurality of holding mechanisms. This claim is also clearly allowable at this point.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of claims 1-4 and 8 are now in condition for allowance. Indication of such is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Satoshi WAKABAYASHI

By: 

Nils E. Pedersen
Registration No. 33,145
Attorney for Applicant

NEP/krp
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
January 27, 2005